Applicant:

Robert L. Smith

Serial Number: 10/053,142

Amendment Page 5 of 15

In the Specification:

Page 2 fourth full paragraph:



10

The device comprises a guide assembly that is mountable to a truck or trailer so that the guide assembly is proximal to the opening that provides access to the bed of the truck or trailer. The guide assembly comprises a frame having a strap guide connector guide and at least one support guide mounted thereto.

Page 5, last partial paragraph and page 6 first partial paragraph:

The guide assembly 12, as seen in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, comprises a frame, composed of parts 20a-e, including a longitudinally extending beam 20a to which are is attached a connector guide 22 and at least one support guide 36. In a preferred embodiment the connector guide 22 may comprise a stationary surface (not shown) over which the connector passes. With the use of low friction materials or lubricants on this surface, this would be satisfactory; however, in the preferred embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1-3, the connector guide 22 comprises a roller 23 which reduces the friction and wear on the connector 16 and reduces the load on the winch 18. In a preferred embodiment, the connector 16, conveniently comprises a strap, as shown in the drawing figures. In Figs. 2 and 3, it can be seen that the roller 23 has a circumferential recess 24 formed therein that is just wider than the width of the strap to keep the strap centered on the roller 23 and to help prevent the strap from disengaging therefrom. In other preferred embodiments, the connector 16 may

Applicant:

Robert L. Smith

Serial Number: 10/053,142

Amendment Page 6 of 15

5

comprise a cable, and then the recess 24 would be structured as a V-groove, for retention of the cable, rather than the wide recess necessary for retention of the strap. The strap or cable is preferably constructed from woven strands of nylon; however, other synthetics, steel wire, hemp or any other material that is suitable for the purpose may be used.

Page 6, first full paragraph:

As seen in Fig. 2, the strap guide connector guide 22 is attached to frame part 20a by a pair of adjustable posts 26. Each post is comprised of an element 28 and a sleeve 30. The sleeve 30 is attached to the frame while the roller 23 is attached to the element 28. The element is movable within the sleeve 30. A nut 32 is attached by welding, or other suitable means, to the bottom of the sleeve 30 and a bolt 34 is threadably inserted through the nut 32 and a hole (not shown) in the bottom of the sleeve 30. The first end of each bolt 34 (not seen) engages the bottom of a respective element 28 (not shown) so that the elements, and thus the roller 23, can be raised or lowered by rotation of the bolts 34.

Page 21 paragraph 1:

A cargo loading and unloading device for use with vehicles having a bed that is suitable for hauling cargo, for example, trucks, trailers. The device, which is configured to handle general or specific types of cargo, such as motorcycles, personal



10

the vehicle.

opening that provides access to the bed of the vehicle. The guide assembly comprises a frame having a strap guide connector guide and at least one support guide mounted thereto. A movable carriage that is configured to hold the cargo is sized and configured to be at least partially receivable within and carried by the bed of the vehicle. A winch that is mountable to the vehicle proximal the end of the bed that is distal the open end of the bed is attached to one end of a connector, and the second end of the connector is attached to the carriage. Before the carriage is loaded into a vehicle, the connector extends from the winch over the connector guide and to the first end of the carriage. When the winch is rotated the first end of the carriage is lifted upwardly until the first end of the carriage engages and rides upon the support guide, and then the carriage is pulled over the support guide until the carriage is pulled into

watercraft, and so forth, comprises a guide assembly that is mountable proximal to the